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## GENERAL NOTES.

### *Ephemeris of Halley's Comet.*—

(Continued from preceding number.)

Greenwich Midnight.	R. A.	Dec.	log $r$	log $\Delta$
1910 June 1	9 <sup>h</sup> 55 <sup>m</sup> 57 <sup>s</sup>	+ 2° 1'.3	0.0243	9.7190
5	10 11 6	+ 0 38.0		
9	10 20 47	— 0 14.3		
13	10 27 52	0 53.3	0.0948	9.9906
17	10 33 27	1 24.4		
21	10 38 8	1 51.1		
25	10 42 17	2 14.8	0.1547	0.1508
29	10 45 56	2 36.8		
July 3	10 49 24	2 57.8		
7	10 52 41	3 18.2	0.2063	0.2617
11	10 55 50	3 38.2		
15	10 58 53	3 58.3		
19	11 1 51	4 18.3	0.2513	0.3441
23	11 4 56	4 38.4		
27	11 7 39	4 58.5		
31	11 10 27	— 5 19.0	0.2910	0.4078

This ephemeris was computed by Mr. F. E. SEAGRAVE (*Observatory*, March, 1910).

*Transit of Halley's Comet.*—Mr. C. S. TAYLOR, in *Nature*, February 17th, points out that the altitude of the Sun at the North Cape on May 18th, the day of the transit of Halley's Comet, will be 1° 9', and the contact does not take place till 16<sup>h</sup> 6<sup>m</sup> local time. As the altitude of the Cape is 968 feet, there would be a fair chance of seeing whatever there may be to see.

Recent calculations indicate that this transit will be invisible in Europe and the greater part of America. The calculated times of ingress and egress for the Pacific Slope are as follows:—

First contact, May 18, 6<sup>h</sup> 22<sup>m</sup> Pacific Standard Time  
in position angle 264°

Last contact, May 18, 7<sup>h</sup> 22<sup>m</sup> Pacific Standard Time  
in position angle 92°

More accurate values of the elements may, however, change these values considerably.

The daily press records the departure for Honolulu of Mr. ELLERMAN, of the Mount Wilson Solar Observatory, under the auspices of the Astronomical and Astrophysical Society of America, aided by a grant from the National Academy of Sciences. Mr. ELLERMAN is equipped with a 6½-inch equatorial telescope and mounting loaned by the Lick Observatory, and subsidiary apparatus for cometary photography, and his purpose is to fill the observational gap of nearly one third of the Earth's circumference covered by the Pacific Ocean and make possible the securing of as continuous as possible a series of photographs of this comet at the time of its maximum brightness.

Professor KR. BIRKELAND, of the Universitets Fysiske Institut, Christiania, will proceed to Kaafjord in Finmarken at the northern end of Norway, in order to take magnetic and atmospheric observations during the period from May 7th to June 1st, in connection with the transit of Halley's Comet across the Sun's disk and the possible passage of the Earth through the tail. Mr. O. KROGNESS will act as his assistant.

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The Oxford University authorities have decided to confer the honorary degree of doctor of science on Mr. PHILIP HERBERT COWELL, F. R. S., chief assistant, and Mr. ANDREW CLAUDE DE LA CHEROIS CROMMELIN, assistant at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, in recognition of their conjoint successful labors in the exact determination of the reappearance of Halley's Comet.—*London Standard*.

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*Comet a 1910.*—Comet a 1910 is now (April 15th) within telescopic reach in the morning sky. It is not brighter than the twelfth magnitude, and a very indistinct and difficult object. Plates taken with the Crossley Reflector on April 11th and 12th show a head between one and two minutes of arc in diameter, with a slight condensation at the center, but with no trace of a tail.

H. D. CURTIS.

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*Notes from "Science."*—The council of the Royal Astronomical Society has awarded the gold medal of the society to Professor F. KÜSTNER, director of the University Observatory of Bonn.

Lord RAYLEIGH has been elected a foreign associate of the Paris Academy of Sciences in succession to the late SIMON NEWCOMB.

Sir WILLIAM HUGGINS, F. R. S., the eminent astronomer, celebrated his eighty-sixth birthday on February 7th at his residence at Tulsehill, England.

Dr. HENRY WILDE has offered the University of Oxford the sum of £600 for the foundation of an annual lecture on astronomy and terrestrial magnetism, in honor and memory of EDMUND HALLEY, some time Savilian professor of geometry.

Sir CHARLES TODD, F. R. S., well known for his astronomical and meteorological work in South Australia, has died at the age of eighty-three years.

Professor W. J. HUSSEY, director of the observatory of the University of Michigan, announces that the observatory is about to receive gifts aggregating \$20,000 from Mr. R. P. LAMONT, of Chicago, a member of the class of '91. One gift, representing \$17,000, is a deed of land directly east of the observatory, bordering upon the arboretum. This should always insure a sky line free from smoke and dust. Mr. LAMONT has also furnished funds to start the construction of a 24-inch refracting telescope.

The Rev. CARR WALLER PRITCHETT, formerly director of the Morrison Astronomical Observatory and president of Central College and Pritchett College, Missouri, died on March 18th, at the age of eighty-seven years.

A friend of Allegheny Observatory has endowed a fellowship in astronomy at that institution. The fellow is to receive \$500.

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*The Silliman Lectures, 1909-1910.*—The Silliman Lectures in Yale University for the academic year 1909-1910 were delivered by Director W. W. CAMPBELL, in the interval January 24 to February 2, 1910. The subjects of the eight lectures were as below, the general subject being "Stellar Motions," with special reference to motions determined by means of the spectroscope:—

I. *Historical and Introductory.*—Theory of spectroscopic measurement of the radial velocities of celestial bodies. Visual applications of the method. Types of spectra to be dealt with.

II. *Development of the Photographic Method.*—Conditions required to obtain accurate results. Proofs that observed motions are correct. Conditions other than motion affect results.

III. *Results Obtained for Individual Stars* (general consideration of the solar-motion problem).—Comparison of results obtained at different observatories. Accuracy attainable for stars of various magnitudes and spectral types. Velocities of groups of stars in different areas of the sky. Introduction to the solar-motion problem.

IV. *Proper Motion Determinations of the Motion of the Solar System.*—Consideration of the principal methods and results. Systematic motions of the stars.

V. *Spectrographic Determinations of the Solar Motion.*—Advantages of the method. Development of theory. Selection of materials for solution of problem. Recent results for direction and speed of solar motion.

VI. *Other Products of the Spectrographic Method.*—Systematic motions of the stars. Orders of magnitude of stellar velocities and average velocity. Relation between brightness and velocity. Distances of the stars.

VII. *Visual and Spectrographic Double Stars.*—Visible double stars, introductory to invisible double and multiple stars discovered by means of the spectrograph. Discovery and study of spectroscopic binary stars.

VIII. *Spectrographic Study of Variable Stars* (general consideration of stellar problems).—Application of radial-velocity method to study of variable stars. Current and future problems of the stellar system.

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*Presentation of the Gold Medal.*—The annual general meeting of the Fellows of the Royal Astronomical Society was held February 11th at Burlington House. The President, Sir DAVID GILL, was in the chair. Professor FRIEDRICH KÜSTNER, of the Royal Observatory, Bonn, to whom the Council awarded the gold medal of the society, was present.

The president said the gold medal had been awarded to Professor KÜSTNER for his catalogue of stars, his pioneer determination of the aberration constant from motions in the line of sight, and his detection of the variation of latitude. Astronomy in one sense or another appealed to minds of widely different orders. To the mathematician it offered problems of infinite interest; but, as they all knew, there had been most distinguished workers in the field of astrodynamics to whom the spectacular glories of the heavens did not appeal—to whom the first sight of an object like *Saturn* or a great star cluster as viewed through a good telescope brought no thrill, no insatiable desire to see more, or to acquire or devise means for so doing. Such men were too apt to regard the art of observing as a mere mechanical operation that was unworthy of their practical study. But they were thus frequently placed in the position of having to employ observations about which they had not the capacity to distinguish between the good and the bad.

There was a larger number of persons who were not wanting in the

emotional response to their first telescopic sight of celestial objects; some of them acquired, or were driven to construct, instruments to indulge their awakened curiosity; and not a few of them afterwards did useful work as astronomical observers. The attributes of the great majority of astronomers lay between these two extremes. But the number of men who possessed the true fire and natural capacity for the most refined original research in the field of astronomy was limited. Such men must have an inborn natural mathematical, mechanical, and manipulative aptitude; the critical faculty to discern the possible sources of error to which any class of observations might be liable, with the inventive capacity to devise means for their elimination; and that persistent patience and divine discontent with their own best efforts which alone could lead to the highest and most refined class of work. Their medallist was supremely a man of this latter type. (Hear, hear!) The greatest teacher of practical astronomy since the days of BESSEL was unquestionably WINNECKE, and he fully realized the fact that the true, practical astronomer was "born, not made." Their medallist was one of the first to enter the small but brilliant school conducted by WINNECKE at Strassburg, about forty years ago, and since then he had touched no department in the wide field of astronomical research which he did not adorn. (Hear, hear!)

After the presentation of the gold medal to Professor KÜSTNER, a number of interesting photographs and drawings of the comet, taken at Oxford, Cambridge, Dunsink, and other places were exhibited.—*The Times*, February 12, 1910.

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*Historical Note.*—MR. GEORGE MADEIRA, mineralogist and mining engineer of Healdsburg, California, has supplied me with the following interesting information: "In the year 1860 I erected the first astronomical observatory and installed the first astronomical telescope in the State of California, at Volcano, Amador County, some 2,200 feet above the sea. . . . The telescope, with its equatorial mounting and delicate clock-work motion, was made by TEBOURS & SECRETAN, of Paris, France. It was of only three inches aperture and the highest power was but 125. . . . I was a youth in 1860, and an enthusiast in astronomical studies. Professor TELERAND was my instructor, a thorough mathematician; and for two years, while he was with me, the Volcano Observatory ran day and night. . . . On June 30, 1861, a superb comet, unheralded, appeared in the west after the Sun had passed below the mountain ridge. I had been observing some large spots on the Sun and really saw the comet an hour before the Sun had set. I ran to TELERAND's home, shouting, 'I have discovered a huge

comet.' . . . In an instant the telescope was turned on the comet, and the clockwork set in motion. We saw a large coma with a bright central nucleus, the coma in a violent state of ebullition. The Sun soon went down, and then we saw the luminous tail stretching backward across the heavens for 20,000,000 miles. . . . 'We are passing through the tail of the comet,' exclaimed Mr. TELERAND. . . . There was a golden glow, extending quite to the horizon's line both north and south. A few small meteors fell during the night, no other results being observable. We must have been in the line of the comet's tail for twenty-four hours, as on the succeeding night the golden halo was perceptible."

W. W. CAMPBELL.

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*Book Catalogue.*—WILLIAM WESLEY & SON, booksellers and publishers, of 28 Essex Street, Strand, London, have recently issued a very comprehensive classified catalogue of manuscripts, books, and pamphlets on astronomy. There are over 3,600 entries in the catalogue, containing many rare books from the libraries of Captain W. NOBLE, E. CROSSLEY, Miss A. M. CLERKE, and A. A. COMMON. It is noticed that a complete set of the *Astronomische Nachrichten* now costs over \$600. The price of the catalogue is one shilling.

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